

Accordingly, the amendments to the specification are made to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay M. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jay M. Maioli
Reg. No. 27,213

JHM/AVF/pmc

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

--An information processing apparatus [comprises] having a receiver, a user identifier generator, a generation source identifier memory, and a transmitter. The receiver receives a request transmitted [thereto] from a terminal device. The user identifier generator generates a user identifier corresponding to the request. The generation source identifier memory stores a generation source identifier to identify a generation source of the user identifier. [And the] The transmitter transmits the generated user identifier and the stored generation source identifier to the terminal device.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 have been amended as follows:

--1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of transmitting information to a terminal device, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request signal transmitted [thereto] from [said] the terminal device;

user identifier generating means for generating a user identifier corresponding to the request signal;

generation source identifier storage means for storing

[the] a generation source identifier [to identify the]
identifying a generation source of the user identifier; and
transmitting means for transmitting the [generated]
user identifier and the [stored] generation source identifier
to [said] the terminal device.

--2. (Amended) The information processing apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein [said] the receiving means
receives [a] the request signal [for] requesting [said] the
information processing apparatus to issue a user password
[for] identifying a user [who operates said] operating the
terminal device[,] and [also] to issue an introduction
password indicating the generation source of the user
password.

--3. (Amended) The information processing apparatus
according to claim 2, wherein [said] the receiving means
receives individual information of the user [who operates
said] operating the terminal device.

--4. (Amended) The information processing apparatus
according to claim 3, wherein [said] the receiving means
receives a request signal [for] requesting issue of the user
password and the introduction password [which] that are used
for accessing homepage information [owned by another]
contained within an other information processing apparatus,
and [said] the introduction password specifies the homepage

information of [said] the information processing apparatus [which] that introduces the homepage information of [said another] the other information processing apparatus.

--6. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein [said] the user identifier generating means generates a user password corresponding to the received individual information, and transfers the generated user password to [said] the individual information storage means[, which then] that stores the transferred user password correspondingly to the individual information.

--7. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [said information] the generation source identifier storage means stores [a] the generation source identifier [to identify the] identifying homepage information.

--8. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein [said information] the generation service identifier storage means stores an introduction password as the generation source identifier [to identify] identifying the homepage information.

--9. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user identifier and the generation source identifier are used when [said] the terminal

device accesses [the] information [owned by another] contained within an other information processing apparatus, and [said] the transmitting means transmits the user identifier and the generation source identifier to [said another] the other information processing apparatus.

--10. (Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of transmitting homepage information to a terminal device, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a request signal transmitted [thereto] from [said] the terminal device [to request] requesting issue of a user password and an introduction password indicating [the] a generation source of the user password, and [also] for receiving individual user [individual] information transmitted from [said] terminal device;

a user register for storing the received individual user information;

a user password generator for generating a user password corresponding to the received individual user information and for transferring the generated user password to [said] the user register where the transferred user password [transferred thereto] is [to be] stored correspondingly to the individual user information;

an introduction password memory for storing an [instruction] introduction password to identify the homepage information; and

a transmitter for transmitting the generated user password and the introduction password to [said] the terminal device.

--11. (Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of transmitting information to a terminal device, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a user identifier transmitted [thereto] from [said] the terminal device[,] and [also] a generation source identifier indicating [the] a generation source of the user identifier;

authenticating means for authenticating an access to the information in accordance with the received user identifier and generation source identifier; and

payment processing means for executing a process to pay a fee to the generation source[, which is] indicated by the generation source identifier[,] in accordance with the result of [such] the authentication.

--12. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein [said] the authenticating means comprises an input checker for deciding whether [the] a reception of [said] the user identifier is [the first time or not;] an initial reception, and a user identifier register for storing [any past] user [identifier] identifiers previously received [already] and registering [the new] user [identifier] identifiers having receptions decided to be [the

first reception] initial receptions by [said] the input checker.

--13. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein [said] the authenticating means comprises a generation source processor for outputting either of generation source information [or] and no-generation source information in accordance with [the] a result of a comparison between the received generation source identifier and [the] a stored generation source identifier.

--14. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein [said] the generation source processor updates a point value[, which] that corresponds to the generation source identifier [indicative of] indicating the generation source[,] in accordance with the result of [such a] the comparison.

--15. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising homepage information storage means for storing homepage information, wherein [said] the payment processing means converts the point[, which is] value stored in [said] the generation source processor[,] into an amount of money and [generating] generates a signal for payment of the amount of money to the generation source indicated by the generation source identifier, [said] the signal serving as a settlement signal [which has] having an

identifier corresponding to [the] a homepage of a payment source, an account number corresponding to the generation source identifier, and information of the [converted due] amount.

--16. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein [said] the authenticating means comprises: a correspondence register for registering the received user identifier and the generation source identifier correspondingly [to each other] in a [data base] database when the received user identifier and the generation source identifier have been transferred from the information processing apparatus having an introduction source homepage to introduce the information; and an input checker for deciding[, in accordance with the data base,] whether the reception of [said] the user identifier is [the first time or not] an initial reception in accordance with the database.

--17. (Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein [said] the input checker [makes a decision as to] decides whether the generation source identifier has been received [or not,] and [if the result of such a decision signifies no reception, said input checker] retrieves the generation source identifier[, which corresponds] corresponding to the user identifier[, from the [data base] database of [said] the correspondence register when the decision indicates that the generation source

identifier has not been received.

--18. (Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of transmitting homepage information to a terminal device, comprising:

a receiver for receiving[, from said terminal device,] a user password and an introduction password indicating a generation source of the user password from the terminal device;

an input checker for [making a decision as to] deciding whether the reception of the user password [received by said receiver] is [the first time or not] an initial reception, and [another decision as to] for deciding whether the [proper] introduction password [has been] received [or not] is proper;

a user password register for storing [any] user [password] passwords previously received [already] by [said] the receiver, and for registering [the] new [user password decided by said] passwords when the input checker [as the first time] decides the new passwords have not been previously received;

an introduction source processor for outputting either of introducer information [or] and no-introducer information in accordance with [the] a result of a comparison between the received introduction password and [the] a stored introduction password, and for updating[, in accordance with the result of such a comparison, the] a point value [which] that corresponds

to the introduction password indicative of the [introduction] generation source in accordance with the result;

a homepage information memory for storing homepage information in an HTML format;

a payment processor for converting the point value[, which is] stored in [said] the introduction source processor[,] into an amount of money, [said] wherein the payment processor [generating] generates a settlement signal [which has] having an identifier corresponding to [the] a homepage of a payment source, an account number corresponding to the introduction password, and information of the [converted due] amount; and

a transmitter for transmitting[,] to [said] the terminal device[,] either of the introducer information [or] and the no-introducer information outputted from [said] the introduction source processor[, also]; for transmitting the homepage information to [said] the terminal device[,]; and [further] for transmitting the generated settlement signal to a settlement center.

--19. (Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of transmitting homepage information to a terminal device, comprising:

a receiver for receiving[, from said terminal device,] a user password and an introduction password indicating a generation source of the user password from the terminal device;

a correspondence register for registering the user password and the introduction password correspondingly [to each other] in a [data base] database when the received user password and introduction password have been transferred from [the] an information processing apparatus [which] that owns an introduction source homepage [to introduce said] for introducing the homepage;

an input checker for [making a decision as to] deciding whether the reception of the user password [received] by said receiver is [the first time or not, through] an initial reception by searching the [data base] database of [said] the correspondence register [and, if], wherein the [result of such a decision signifies no reception, retrieving] input checker retrieves an introduction password[, which corresponds] corresponding to [said] the user password[, from the [data base] database of [said] correspondence register when the decision indicates the user password has been previously received;

an introduction source processor for outputting either of introducer information [or] and no-introducer information in accordance with [the] a result of a comparison between either of the received [or] and retrieved introduction password and the stored introduction password, and for updating[, in accordance with the result of such a comparison, the] a point value [which] that corresponds to the introduction password indicative of the [introduction] generation source in accordance with the result;

a homepage information memory for storing homepage information in an HTML format;

a payment processor for converting the point value[, which is] stored in [said] the introduction source processor[,] into an amount of money, [said] wherein the payment processor [generating] generates a settlement signal [which has] having an identifier corresponding to [the] a homepage of a payment source, an account number corresponding to the introduction password, and information of the [converted due] amount; and

a transmitter for transmitting[,] to [said] the terminal device[,] either of the introducer information [or] and the no-introducer information outputted from [said] the introduction source processor[, also]; for transmitting the homepage information to [said] the terminal device[,]; and [further] for transmitting the generated settlement signal to a settlement center.

--20. (Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request transmitted from a terminal device;

generating a user identifier corresponding to [said] the request; and

transmitting[, to said terminal device,] the generated user identifier and a generation source identifier which identifies a generation source of the user identifier stored

in an information processing apparatus to the terminal device.

--21. (Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a user identifier transmitted from a terminal device[,] and a generation source identifier indicating a generation source of the user identifier;

authenticating [an] access to information stored in an information processing apparatus[,] in accordance with the received user identifier and generation source identifier; and

executing[, in accordance with the result of such authentication,] a process for paying a fee to the generation source indicated by said generation source identifier in accordance with a result of the authenticating step.--